

## Abstract of the Disclosure

[91] An apparatus and method are disclosed for locking a table within a network switch. The table is used to store entries that contain addresses of network stations connected to the network switch. A scheduler regulates access to the address table by allocating prescribed time slots during which components of the network switch can access the address table. Each component requiring access to the address table must wait until it is assigned a time slot in order to further determine if any other components are accessing the address table. If none of the other components are accessing the address table, then the component requiring access can initiate a transaction.